



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 8, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT
HADAD, MICHAEL KULSTAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS 3 BRONX DRUG DEALERS
OF KILLING RENEGADE MEMBER OF THEIR OWN GANG**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ANGEL CORDERO, RICARDO DELVI and EDGAR MARINO SANCHEZ were convicted in Manhattan federal court late yesterday of murdering a 19-year-old fellow member of the "Hughes Boys," a group of drug dealers who sold crack cocaine, cocaine and heroin in the vicinity of East 178th Street and Hughes Avenue in the Bronx. Two other defendants, RANSAIS A. GARCIA and IAN BURGESS, were also convicted of participating in a conspiracy to distribute narcotics with the Hughes Boys. The verdict was returned by a jury after a two-month trial before United States District Judge SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN.

The evidence at trial established that between 1995 and October 2001, the Hughes Boys organization controlled the retail distribution of illegal narcotics, including crack cocaine,

cocaine and heroin, within a five block radius of Hughes Avenue and East 178th Street in the East Tremont Section of the Bronx. During that time, members of the Hughes Boys conducted retail sales on a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week basis, at numerous locations, including on Hughes Avenue, Crotona Avenue and Arthur Avenue. The evidence at trial also showed that members of the Hughes Boys regularly used firearms to defend their drug trafficking operations. CORDERO and DELVI took over leadership of the Hughes Boys organization after Sanford Malone, the long-time leader of the organization, was gunned down on February 14, 2000.

The evidence at trial also established that on December 15, 2000, members of the Hughes Boys organization gathered to discuss problems that the leadership was having with a breakaway faction of the organization, regarding the control of drug sales on Hughes Avenue. At that meeting, CORDERO and DELVI offered \$5,000 to anyone who would kill members of the rival faction, and SANCHEZ accepted the offer.

On December 19, 2000, DELVI, SANCHEZ and GARCIA, together with another member of the conspiracy, located Earl Edwards, a/k/a "Weasy," a 19-year-old member of the rival faction, who at the time was standing on the corner of East 178th Street and Hughes Avenue in the Bronx. DELVI, SANCHEZ and GARCIA approached Edwards and, after a brief confrontation between DELVI and Edwards, SANCHEZ pulled out a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and fired seven shots, killing Edwards, according to

evidence at the trial. A bystander was also wounded in the shooting. SANCHEZ was arrested in connection with the shooting on January 9, 2001, in Schenectady, New York, and DELVI surrendered the following day. CORDERO and GARCIA were arrested on April 4, 2001, on Crotona Avenue in the Bronx.

CORDERO, DELVI and SANCHEZ each face mandatory life in prison under applicable federal sentencing guidelines. GARCIA and BURGESS face a maximum of 20 years in prison on the offenses of which they were convicted. GARCIA and BURGESS were each acquitted of firearms offenses by the jury. Sentencing dates have not yet been firmly established for all the defendants.

The investigation of the Hughes Boys organization, which dated from 1999, was carried out by agents and officers of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"). To date, at least 18 members of the Hughes Boys organization have been convicted of various offenses, including narcotics and firearms offenses, related to their participation in the organization.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys TIMOTHY J. TREANOR, and DAVID M. RODY are in charge of the prosecution.

